

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7038

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16823

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: DR. ABELEV'S PRIZE

REF: A. STATE 275842

B. MOSCOW 16654

1. WE HAVE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND RE DR. ABELEV. DR. ABELEV, A JEW, IS REPORTEDLY THE VICTIM OF THE ANTI-SEMITISM OF HIS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR, A DR. BAROYAN. WE ARE TOLD THAT IN 1972 TWO JEWISH MEMBERS OF DR. ABELEV'S TEAM APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. BAROYAN REPORTEDLY USED THESE APPLICATIONS AS THE PRETEXT FOR AN ATTEMPT TO FIRE ABELEV AND DISPERSE HIS RESEARCH TEAM AMONG OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN THE INSTITUTE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOUR MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES--MESSERS. TIMOFEYEV, ENGELHARDT, ASTAUROV, AND BELYAYEV--HAVING HEARD OF THIS ATTEMPT, ORGANIZED A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS SECTION OF THE ACADEMY AND SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING A STOP TO THE ATTEMPT TO VICTIMIZE ABELEV. OUR SOURCES SPECULATE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT BAROYAN IS BEHIND THE REFUSAL TO ALLOW ABELEV PERSONALLY TO RECEIVE HIS PRIZE. WHEN HE APPLIED, IN SEPTEMBER, FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE HE WAS ALLEGEDLY INFORMED THAT HE HAD BEEN "TOO LATE" IN SUBMITTING HIS APPLICATION.

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2. RE PARA 6, REF A, EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS. THERE

IS NO WAY IN WHICH EMBASSY COULD SERVE TO TRANSMIT TO ABELEV THE MONETARY PORTION OF HIS PRIZE. IN ORDER FOR ABELEV TO BENEFIT FROM THE \$1,000, SLOANE-KETTERING WOULD HAVE TO DEPOSIT HIS PRIZE IN A BANK WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT BE TRANSFERRED TO DR. ABELEV IN AN ACCOUNT AT VNESHTORGBANK.

3. AS TO TRANSMITTING THE MEDAL, EMBASSY SEES NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO BEING CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH PRIZE TRANSMITTED TO ABELEV. SCIENCE COUNSELOR COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, GIVE ABELEV HIS MEDAL IN A LOW KEY, PRIVATE CEREMONY. WE THINK IT ADVISABLE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE RESOLUTION OF THE SAKHAROV AWARD PRESENTATION, ASSUMING THIS OCCURS IN NEAR FUTURE, BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO HANDLE ABELEV'S PRIZE.

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Message Attributes

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